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*For Immediate Release*

### **Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation Announces 2014 Innovative Education Grant Recipients**

**Pleasanton, CA / July 30, 2014** - Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation recently announced the recipients of their 2014 Innovative Education Grant Program, awarding \$41,000 to 20 educators and counselors, one of the largest pools of recipients in the history of the program.

PPIE offers Education Grants for Pleasanton Unified School District employees to fund projects that are student-focused, promote creativity and innovative thinking, and offer expanded learning opportunities to students. Grant requests are accepted in amounts up to \$3,000 to supplement, not replace, district funding.

Executive Director Susan Hayes says the foundation saw a surge in applications this year, three times the usual amount. "While the grant committee was encouraged to see increased interest, the limitations of the budget made decisions difficult and many qualified applications went un-funded." She identified several elements that drove the onslaught of applications: classroom technology needs, increased emphasis on common core curriculum, and the move towards integrated learning.

Thanks to the generosity of local companies which support the Grant Program, in particular Oracle Corporation for their grant of \$30,000 for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math ("STEM") related projects, PPIE was able to fund close to half the requests received.

In response to the uptick in interest, PPIE is reaching out to engage additional companies as direct sponsors of the PPIE Innovative Grant Programs. "These grants foster inspired learning at all grade levels," Hayes said. "PPIE wants to continue our role supporting dreams and ideas that broaden learning experiences for all students in Pleasanton."

The Program also includes two additional grant cycles each year: Innovative Student Grants available in the fall are designed to support positive learning experiences for both co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. In 2014, PPIE added a new program for Competition Grants which support high school non-athletic competition teams, such as "*We the People*," as they advance to regional, state and national levels.

Now in its 26<sup>th</sup> year, the PPIE Foundation Grant Program has awarded over **\$850,000.00** in grants that directly impact learning in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math, also known as "STEAM," throughout the Pleasanton Unified School District. Companies interested in donating to the PPIE Innovative Grant Program can write to [executivedirector@ppie.org](mailto:executivedirector@ppie.org).

### **PPIE Foundation Innovative Education Grant Awards 2014:**

**Orff Instruments at Fairlands**

\$3,000.00 – Jason Borris, Fairlands Elementary School

Funds purchase instruments to support transition from theory to hands-on learning and volunteer ensemble

**Art at Horizon High School**

\$2,700.11 – Christine Capitani, Horizon High School

Funds purchase materials to support development of a comprehensive art program

**Harmony through Innovation**

\$1,800.00 – Jon Grantham, Amador Valley High School

Funds provide a "Harmony Director" technology tool for instruction in musical concepts.

**Harvest Park Library History/Social Studies Supporting Materials**

\$ 3,000.00 – Megan Maloy, Harvest Park Middle School

Funds support technology conversion of library resources enabling more students to meet common core requirements.

**Launching “Project Lead the Way” with iPads**

\$3,000.00 – Erin Dixon, Mohr Elementary School

Funds support integration of “Project Lead the Way” programming at the elementary school level.

**Programming, Coding, 3D Printin, Robotics in Elementary**

\$2,912.00 - Adam Randall, Vintage Hills Elementary School

Funds support STEM-based project using iPads to learn about these technology concepts while improving critical thinking.

**Introducing Next Generation Science Standards**

\$536.47 –Amy Turner Bull, Amador Valley High School

Funds purchase reusable kit offering activities which introduce new biology standards.

**Protein Studies, PAGE, ELISA and Fluorescent Proteins**

\$2,750.00 – Lata Mistry, Amador Valley High School

Funds purchase laboratory materials that introduce practical skills utilized in industry.

**Mobile Formative Assessments for Science**

\$1,500.00 – Heather Pereira and Brandy Barnett, Amador Valley High School

Funds purchase Android Tablets offering greater access for students to formative assessments.

**Outdoor Garden Education: Linking Science, Food, Nutrition**

\$402.69 – Kathryn Peters, Walnut Grove Elementary School

Funds provide materials for students to build a student-friendly composter station.

**Accurate Dissolved Oxygen**

\$970.46 – Eric Thiel, Amador Valley High School

Funds purchase outdated probes with optical sensors, which are next generation technology.

**iPads for Resource Room**

\$414.54 – Jessica Sempronio, Lydiksen Elementary School

Funds bring technological support into the Resource Room to support equitable and assistive learning.

**Please Pass the iPad**

\$1,160.00 – Linda Boveda, Lydiksen Elementary School

Funds purchase 2 iPads to support existing technology projects using Glogster, Educreations, iMovie and iBooks apps.

**Chromebooks for Creative and Innovative Instruction**

\$1,525.00 – David Middleton, Foothill High School

Funds purchase Chromebooks for use in Social Studies Research projects.

**Chromebooks for the Classroom**

\$2,717.37 – Michelle Williams, Walnut Grove Elementary School

Funds purchase Chromebooks to provide enhanced Geography research tools in elementary school.

**Collaborative Classroom**

\$2,020.50 – Tammy Creighton, Vintage Hills Elementary School

Funds support existing classroom redesign effort towards a student-centered, interactive environment.

**Chromebooks for Prezi**

\$2,113.51 – Erin Diaz, Walnut Grove Elementary School

Funds purchase Chromebooks to enable use of Prezi online visual learning tool in third grade.

**From Spiral to Online Notebooks**

\$2,627.46 – Debbie Harvey, Amador Valley High School

Funds support integration of technology necessary to advance an existing, successful program.

**3-D Printing in Unified Arts**

\$3,000.00 – Warren Jensen, Pleasanton Middle School

Funds support purchase of 3-D printer for projects aligned with 'Project Lead the Way,' reaching over 1,000 students in the first year.

**Chromebooks for Math**

\$2,850.00 – Christopher Ragg, Pleasanton Middle School

Funds support transition to 'flipped' classroom requiring additional technology tools.

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